

The Revelation

Lesson 6

The LORD took John into the majestic throne room of God to show him the events that would take place after the closing of the doors of the seven Churches in the cities of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea. The fulfillment of the prophesies to these seven Churches took almost 2000 years to occur.

The purpose of the visit to the throne room was to show John the climactic event when God the Father handed the Book of Life, sealed with seven seals, to Jesus, the Lamb of God. We are fortunate to have John's description of the room, but all those details were simply a road map leading to the exchange of the sealed book from the Father's hand to the Son's. But the exchange was not the whole story; the thread of thought concerning the Book of Life and the seven seals will not end until Chapter 8:1.

As chapter five concluded, Jesus had the Book of Life in hand and He was ready to open the first seal. We must note here, of all the content within the REVELATION, the actions that take place with the opening of the first four seals are the most difficult to understand.

C. The Seals in Heaven (6:1 – 8:1)

1. Seal One – Come White Horse (6:1-2)

Rev 6:1 Then I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, "Come." ² I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

We know about the four living creatures and we know that they were not silent. We know that they continuously gave praise to God and the LORD. We also know that they liked to say, "Amen" (5:14). Here we see that they had the ability to communicate with John. "Come," the creature said to John. We must ask the question, "Come" where? John's eyes had been turned toward heaven; it was time for him to turn his eyes toward earth. He had to move his gaze from the Almighty and Most Holy and look at the feeble and most sinful. "Behold" the creature said. It is the word that means *pay attention to this, it is important*. As John focused his attention, the breaking of the first seal set forth in motion the release of "a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer." A white horse, a bow, a crown and a rider with the mission to attempt to conquer! That is it! That is all the Scripture tells us! That is all we know! What can we make of this description?

In this case, the "white horse" was released with a crowned rider intent on conquering what he could with his limited power. With the breaking of the seal the LORD gave permission for some action to begin here on earth. It is not the LORD's doing; rather, it is man's. This rider had no real power because he had no ammunition for his weapon. Therefore, this rider must attempt to conquer by drawing the hearts of humanity to his point of view, his value and philosophy of life. Today, the term would be called his *world view*.

With the first broken seal, the release of this rider starts another time marker leading to the LORD's Second Coming and Israel's change of heart. For that, the LORD gave man the permission to turn all that is right and all that is righteous and all that is holy on its head. It will be man's desires in total rebellion to God's desires. Man's actions have consequences – some blessings and some curses. It gave mankind permission to attempt to conquer all humanity without firing a single shot, without hurting a single fly. From this passage the idea of the “**white horse**” savior has developed, the guy who shows up just in time to *save the day*. To my amazement, people actually allow this to happen and, in many ways, hope that it happens with every crisis of life. People look for that fairy tale ending. Here, the rider on this galloping horse will be given the authority, the “**crown**,” to accomplish his task of saving humanity on man's terms.

For John, this “**white horse**” release was just a prophetic event for the distant future. But today, two thousand years after the writing of this book, we must ask the question, “Has the seal for this ‘**white horse**’ already been broken in heaven and the galloping horse released on earth?” Why would it not? Once the time markers of the seven Churches had been fulfilled why would the LORD not allow the next marker to begin?

In 1922, the last Church in the REVELATION ceased to exist. With that time marker completed, we should look into our history books to see if we can identify an action of man directed at humanity that even remotely resembles at least the beginning of the fulfillment of this broken seal. Do the history pages tell us anything? Should we use history to prove the Bible is true and faithful? The answer to that question comes in a question. *How else would we know that the events in the Bible are true and faithful if it were not for historical records that prove the fulfillment of the prophecies and promises of God?* Without history we could not know the proof of God's faithfulness to fulfill His promises! For instance, when the LORD promised Abraham that his descendants would spend 400 years in slavery in Egypt, the historical account of Moses redeeming Jacob's family out of Egypt proved the Bible and God's prophesy to be correct. When the LORD promised through the writings of Hosea that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, Herod's royal history keepers proved the prophecy to be accurate and correct. When Isaiah spoke of the process leading to the death, burial and resurrection of the Messiah, the history books prove that God was correct. When we needed to know about the fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy in chapters 10 and 11, all we had to do was inquire within the history books of Syria, Egypt, Rome and Babylon to see Daniel's prophecies were perfectly accurate. When we wanted to know about the seven Churches of this REVELATION, all we had to do was look into church and world history books to discover their demise. Why then can we not look into the pages of our history books to see if the LORD has already broken the first seal? I think we can and should.

After the last Church closed its doors in 1922, did mankind do anything to try to conquer, or perhaps we should say *change* the world without firing a shot? I think so.

When we pick up a world history book we can use it to look back and see the fulfillment of Bible prophecies with 20/20 vision. However, when the LORD begins to fulfill a prophecy or promise, the action is always so blatantly obvious that the participants often miss the significance of the moment. They miss that they are part of the fulfillment of prophecy. The classic example of this is found in the story of Joseph's inviting his father and brothers to live with him in Egypt. At the moment Jacob moved his family to Egypt a time clock with 400 years of alienation in Egypt began its countdown. Jacob should have known it was the beginning of the fulfillment of the prophecy to Abraham. It was Jacob who passed the

prophecy down to his sons and on to Moses. Surely, Jacob should have known, but he was proverbially too close to the trees to see the forest he was entering. It should have been blatantly obvious to him, but it was not. So, too, when thinking about the first seal, the following discussion is so blatantly obvious that the magnitude of its pervasiveness in humanity is only now being noticed. Perhaps it is the fulfillment of the “**white horse**” seal.

There have been wars and rumors of wars throughout all generations, but the “**white horse**” is not about war, it is about influence. About one decade after the close of the Church in Thyatira, man sent forth into the world a document that had been in development since the late 1920s. The tenants of that document would go against everything godly and holy as directed by the LORD. To this date, it is the only document drafted by man that has eroded humanity and changed its direction and perspective away from God. Its genesis began in the late 1920s and culminated in the 1933 publication of *A Humanist Manifesto*. Developed by American and Canadian authors in the days between World Wars I and II, this one handiwork of man has radically influenced the minds and thoughts of the western nations of the world. It has gone to war against God, not with weapons, but with godless education. It truly fits the bill as a possible fulfillment of this first broken seal. Only time will prove the following of this human movement to be correct. Here quickly are the doctrines of that document.

A Humanist Manifesto – Published in 1933
(See end of lesson for list of signers.)

The time has come for widespread recognition of the radical changes in religious beliefs throughout the modern world. The time is past for mere revision of traditional attitudes. Science and economic change have disrupted the old beliefs. Religions the world over are under the necessity of coming to terms with new conditions created by a vastly increased knowledge and experience. In every field of human activity, the vital movement is now in the direction of a candid and explicit humanism. In order that religious humanism may be better understood we, the undersigned, desire to make certain affirmations which we believe the facts of our contemporary life demonstrate.

There is great danger of a final, and we believe fatal, identification of the word religion with doctrines and methods which have lost their significance and which are powerless to solve the problem of human living in the Twentieth Century ...

Today man's larger understanding of the universe, his scientific achievements, and deeper appreciation of brotherhood, have created a situation which requires a new statement of the means and purposes of religion... While this age does owe a vast debt to the traditional religions, it is none the less obvious that any religion that can hope to be a synthesizing and dynamic force for today must be shaped for the needs of this age. To establish such a religion is a major necessity of the present. It is a responsibility which rests upon this generation. We therefore affirm the following:

First: Religious humanists regard the universe as self-existing and not created.

Second: ... man is a part of nature and that he has emerged as a result of a continuous process.

Third: ... the traditional dualism of mind and body must be rejected.

Fourth: ... man's religious culture and civilization, ... are the product of a gradual development due to his interaction with his natural environment and with his social heritage...

Fifth: ... science makes unacceptable any supernatural or cosmic guarantees of human values...

Sixth: ... time has passed for theism, deism, modernism, and the several varieties of "new thought".

Seventh: ... The distinction between the sacred and the secular can no longer be maintained.

Eighth: ... the complete realization of human personality to be the end of man's life and seeks its development and fulfillment in the here and now...

Ninth: In the place of the old attitudes involved in worship and prayer the humanist finds his religious emotions expressed in a heightened sense of personal life and in a cooperative effort to promote social well-being.

Tenth: ... there will be no uniquely religious emotions and attitudes of the kind hitherto associated with belief in the supernatural.

Eleventh: ... We assume that humanism will take the path of social and mental hygiene and discourage sentimental and unreal hopes and wishful thinking.

Twelfth: Believing that religion must work increasingly for joy in living, religious humanists aim to foster the creative in man and to encourage achievements that add to the satisfactions of life.

Thirteenth: ... Certainly religious institutions, their ritualistic forms, ecclesiastical methods, and communal activities must be reconstituted as rapidly as experience allows, in order to function effectively in the modern world.

Fourteenth: ... existing acquisitive and profit-motivated society has shown itself to be inadequate and that a radical change in methods, controls, and motives must be instituted. A socialized and cooperative economic order must be established to the end that the equitable distribution of the means of life be possible. ... Humanists demand a shared life in a shared world.

Fifteenth and last: We assert that humanism will: (a) affirm life rather than deny it; (b) seek to elicit the possibilities of life, not flee from them; and (c) endeavor to establish the conditions of a satisfactory life for all, not merely for the few. By this positive morale and intention humanism will be guided, and from this perspective and alignment the techniques and efforts of humanism will flow.

... we consider the religious forms and ideas of our fathers no longer adequate, the quest for the good life is still the central task for mankind. Man is at last becoming aware that he alone is responsible for the realization of the world of his dreams, that he has within himself the power for its achievement. He must set intelligence and will to the task.

In 1973, an update was made to the *Manifesto*. It is called *A Humanist Manifesto II*. Here its precepts violently oppose God's precepts.

A Humanist Manifesto II – Published in 1973

(See end of lesson for list of signers.)

Religion

FIRST: ...We believe, however, that traditional dogmatic or authoritarian religions that place revelation, God, ritual, or creed above human needs and experience do a disservice to the human species. Any account of nature should pass the tests of scientific evidence; in our judgment, the dogmas and myths of traditional religions do not do so. ... We find insufficient evidence for belief in the existence of a supernatural; it is either meaningless or irrelevant to the question of survival and fulfillment of the human race. ... we begin with humans not God, nature not deity. ...

... But we reject those features of traditional religious morality that deny humans a full appreciation of their own potentialities and responsibilities. ... Such institutions, creeds, and rituals often impede the will to serve others. Too often traditional faiths encourage dependence rather than independence, obedience rather than affirmation, fear rather than courage. ... humans are responsible for what we are or will become. No deity will save us; we must save ourselves.

SECOND: Promises of immortal salvation or fear of eternal damnation are both illusory and harmful. ... science affirms that the human species is an emergence from natural evolutionary forces. ... There is no credible evidence that life survives the death of the body. We continue to exist in our progeny and in the way that our lives have influenced others in our culture.

Ethics

THIRD: ... Ethics is autonomous and situational needing no theological or ideological sanction. ...

FOURTH: Reason and intelligence are the most effective instruments that humankind possesses. There is no substitute: neither faith nor passion suffices in itself. ...

The Individual

FIFTH: ... We reject all religious, ideological, or moral codes that denigrate the individual, suppress freedom, dull intellect, dehumanize personality. We believe in maximum individual autonomy consonant with social responsibility. Although science can account for the causes of behavior, the possibilities of individual freedom of choice exist in human life and should be increased.

SIXTH: In the area of sexuality, we believe that intolerant attitudes, often cultivated by orthodox religions and puritanical cultures, unduly repress sexual conduct. The right to birth control, abortion, and divorce should be recognized. ... The many varieties of sexual exploration should not in themselves be considered "evil." Without countenancing mindless permissiveness or unbridled promiscuity, a civilized society should be a tolerant one ... individuals should be permitted to express their sexual proclivities and pursue their lifestyles as they desire. ... Moral education for children and adults is an important way of developing awareness and sexual maturity.

Democratic Society

ELEVENTH: ... moral equality must be furthered through elimination of all discrimination based upon race, religion, sex, age, or national origin. ... Individuals should be encouraged to contribute to their own betterment. If unable, then society should provide means to satisfy their basic economic, health, and cultural needs, including, wherever resources make possible, a minimum guaranteed annual income. ... We believe in the right to universal education. ...

World Community

TWELFTH: We deplore the division of humankind on nationalistic grounds. We have reached a turning point in human history where the best option is to transcend the limits of national sovereignty and to move toward the building of a world community in which all sectors of the human family can participate. Thus we look to the development of a system of world law and a world order based upon transnational federal government. ...

THIRTEENTH: This world community must renounce the resort to violence and force as a method of solving international disputes. We believe in the peaceful adjudication of differences by international courts and by the development of the arts of negotiation and compromise. War is obsolete. So is the use of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. It is a planetary imperative to reduce the level of military expenditures and turn these savings to peaceful and people-oriented uses.

FOURTEENTH: ... The planet earth must be considered a single ecosystem. Ecological damage, resource depletion, and excessive population growth must be checked by international concord. ... We must free our world from needless pollution and waste, responsibly guarding and creating wealth, both natural and human. Exploitation of natural resources, uncurbed by social conscience, must end.

FIFTEENTH: ... It is the moral obligation of the developed nations to provide – through an international authority that safeguards human rights ... World poverty must cease. Hence extreme disproportions in wealth, income, and economic growth should be reduced on a worldwide basis.

SEVENTEENTH: We must expand communication and transportation across frontiers. Travel restrictions must cease. The world must be open to diverse political, ideological, and moral viewpoints and evolve a worldwide system of television and radio for information and education. ...

Humanity As a Whole

IN CLOSING: ... These are the times for men and women of goodwill to further the building of a peaceful and prosperous world. We urge that parochial loyalties and inflexible moral and religious ideologies be transcended. We urge recognition of the common humanity of all people. We further urge the use of reason and compassion to produce the kind of world we want – a world in which peace, prosperity, freedom, and happiness are widely shared. Let us not abandon that vision in despair or cowardice. We are responsible for what we are or will be. ... Let us call for an end to terror and hatred. We will survive and prosper only in a world of shared humane values. ... At the present juncture of history, commitment to all humankind is the highest commitment of which we are capable; it transcends the narrow allegiances of church, state, party, class, or race in moving toward a wider vision of human potentiality. ... Humanism thus interpreted is a moral force that has time on its side. ...

Even more updates to the *Humanist Manifesto* have been put forth in 1979, 1980, 2000, 2002, 2012. But the 1933 and 1973 versions set in motion the heretical change in the human attitude toward God on a grand scale.

These two creeds are now being taught to millions in our public schools by teachers who perceive their roles in the classroom to be missionaries of the humanist religion throughout the westernized world. We could better define the westernized world as the Christianized world developed over the past 2000 years. This does not include the easternized world influenced by Buddha, Hindi and Islam. These *Manifesto* creeds have permeated our western governments, courts, educational institutions (especially our colleges and universities), media and liberal churches. They have achieved a crown of authority and a seemingly unhindered freedom to be taught. From a walk in 1933 to a trot in 1973 to a full-blown gallop today, this humanistic world view has changed the course of history and taken the eyes of western humanity off the Savior and directed them inward to focus on the pride of self – do as I want, what I want, how I want, when I want with no eternal consequences. And even though these creeds were hammered out on American and Canadian soil, the one-time bulwark nations once Christianized have embraced them whole heartedly and already bowed to their precepts and discarded the LORD almost altogether. Countries weakened by the full-fledged acceptance of *A Humanist Manifesto* and its subsequent changes now stand ready to tolerate the most evil of humanity into its borders accompanied by a willingness to allow the evil immigrants to rule themselves with their own beliefs and laws they have imported when they arrived on western soils. Furthermore, with the massive focus on peace for the sake of peace, war is not an option for these countries and therefore they will not be prepared when easternized warring nations knock on their doors with the breaking of the next seal when their peaceful societies succumb in blood shed.

It took 2000 years for the prophecies of the Churches to be fulfilled. How long will it take for the first seal to be completed? The peace of this *Manifesto* has been slowly moving into place for more than 80 years. Its language was picked up in earnest by the 41st President George Bush and dallied with by Presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush 43. Bush '41 spoke regularly of the coming *One World Government*. Then, with President Barak Obama it was made into the central theme of his eight years in office. Not that he embraced it, but his socialistic training saw the *Manifesto* movement useful in forwarding his easternized agenda. The Americans put the brakes on the movement in many ways within the government with

the election of Donald Trump; however, nothing has stopped the worship of its tenants in the majority of our colleges, universities and courthouse thrones. Being moved forward, the philosophy is so ingrained in the western education process that when those who are now in their 50s are dead and gone, the *Manifesto* principles will be the norm and all who hold to God will be heretics. The movement is so flawed in its godlessness that it refuses to take the warnings in GOD's Word seriously and therefore, all those who hold to its creeds will be surprised when their peaceful *Utopia* suddenly meets up with evil and war. It is interesting that we hold our Bibles up and quote from them when we want to defend our beliefs and philosophy; however, these *Manifestos* are rarely mentioned in the textbooks, they are never pointed to as proof for belief and philosophy, yet, wording from their pages are quoted word-for-word as fact in the textbooks, literature, media and conversations. They have made a home in the hearts and minds of godless people. It is almost unimaginable what impact they have made in just eighty years.

As a side note, the "U" in *Utopia* means *no*, the *topia* means *place*. Put the two together and the meaning of *Utopia* is *no place*. *No place* is exactly where the humanist will take those who will listen to them; yet, their *no place* will end up in a place prepared by the LORD for all those whose names are erased from the Book of Life because they have bought into this peaceful lie of this rider.

Only time will tell if this humanist movement is the first seal. If it is not, it will be something similar that intends to bring the world, or at least the westernized world, into one government without a single shot. It will never be worldwide because the REVELATION expresses that there will be at least four powerful governments still in place seven years before the Second Coming of the LORD and they will war against each other and never unite. But this "**white horse**" is necessary to force the western world to unite the 10 surviving nations of the old Roman Empire. This new empire will see the fostering of a false peace with the Nation of Israel. It is all headed toward the Second Coming of the LORD.

2. Seal Two – Come Red Horse (6:3-4)

Rev 6:3 When He broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come." ⁴ And another, a red horse, went out; and to him who sat on it, it was granted to take peace from the earth, and that *men* would slay one another; and a great sword was given to him.

We have made a big deal out of a possible scenario for the "**white horse**" of the first broken seal. It began in the hearts of a few men and turned into a movement of mankind intent on changing all the norms of this world as it has operated for six thousand years. It intends to make all humans equal in every aspect of life and to establish a one world system in peace with absolutely no preparation or tolerance for war. If our first conclusion is incorrect, a system similar will come. It will not be because of the action of one man although three men joined together initially to put it in writing. Then, with the combined efforts of hundreds of thousands, if not millions of people, who have bought into the "**white horse**" purpose and the movement is in full mature blossom, at some point in the future, the Lamb will break the second seal. All the work of the "**white horse**" adherents will suddenly and expectantly face the sword of the red horse – their worst fear.

When the second living creature said to John, "**Come,**" he once again had to take his eyes off the glory of heaven and gaze at the earth – the blood-filled earth. We should not be

so naive to think that this “**red horse**” movement occurs instantaneously. It, too, will begin in a walk, turn to a trot and then proceed into a full gallop, but that will take time. Therefore, as the “**white horse**” movement settles in with all its changes in the way western thinking humans interact and operate on earth, the “**red horse**” movement will be birthed and begin to mature. It will not attack until the seal is broken by the Lamb in heaven that will grant permission to engage with its war and the slaughter of human lives. Notice, John says it is “**a great sword**” meaning *a sword that is nearly impossible to withstand*. It, too, is the fulfillment of the desire of some section of humanity; it is not the LORD’s desire. It is what man will do to continue to ruin human life on earth.

Where does this “**red horse**” movement come from? We have absolutely no idea! We cannot even speculate at this time in history. For that matter, the “**red**” may be a reference to the spilt blood rather than the origin of the people. If we try to make it a group of people, we could speculate that it could come from one or all of the countries defined today as part of the red zone. They are Afghanistan, Burma, Union of Myanmar, Cameroon, Chad, China, Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Cote D’Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Eritrea, Ethiopia, Haiti, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Kosovo, Liberia, Libya, Nigeria, Northern Mariana Islands, Papua New Guinea, Russia, Rwanda, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe. For that matter, most of the countries listed above would love to attack a Utopian establishment purely for the booty alone. Additionally, most of the countries listed above would lavishly spill the blood of *countries engrossed in forced peace*. (*This list of countries is considered part of the red zone because of war threats, political unrest, unreliable communications, lack of standardized procedures, bureaucracy and/or ambivalence toward westernized and/or Christianized nations.*)

All we can absolutely say about this “**red horse**” is that he and his adherents will attack his targets with a mighty force of arms. His intent will be to take full control of everything the white horse was able to conquer in a desire to make it his.

3. Seal Three – Come Black Horse (6:5-6)

Rev 6:5 When He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come." I looked, and behold, a black horse; and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. ⁶ And I heard *something* like a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not damage the oil and the wine."

The desires of man seen in the “**white horse**” and the “**red horse**” have consequences. The “**red horse**” is the counter consequence for the desires of the “**white horse**.” Now, the “**black horse**” is the counter consequence of the desires of the “**red horse**.” War always makes necessities expensive if not unobtainable. War destroys! It destroys the important crops in the fields, the supply chain of essential foods, and the provisions to sustain life. Here on the Gulf Coast we have seen the empty shelves at the stores when the hurricanes have arrived and turned the hustle and bustle of everyday normal life that we take for granted into something that looks like a *war zone*. With the breaking of the third seal, the Lamb allowed mankind to begin to starve! For how long? For as long as it takes! For as long as it takes for humans to show their true colors in such times of distress. By the way, the LORD is not in a hurry! This “**black horse**” personifies man’s inability to accomplish the goals of

something like *A Humanist Manifesto*. Such decrees work only when times are good. But when times are bad, the whole movement falls apart.

Sweden has a universal healthcare system as well as a universal employment payment system. All painters in the country are paid the same salary. The same is the case for all trades of employment. All doctors make the same money. All lawyers are paid the same, no more and no less. For instance, painters must paint so many gallons each month to receive their salaries. It takes weeks for a painter to paint a house because there is no incentive to complete the job quickly. If you work too fast, you do not get paid more; in fact, if you work too slowly, you do not get paid less. The doctor's offices are near the entrances to the subway system. If you need a doctor, you go stand in line at the office. Once the doctor has seen his quota for the day, the line is closed. Many doctors work only an hour or so per day. When they have seen their quota, they close. They do not get paid for seeing more patients. By law, a doctor must give you a prescription; however, the medicine does not have to be one that works for your need or symptoms; they just have to give you a drug when they see you. If they give you a prescription to enter the hospital, you must go stand in line until you can get a bed. If a bed is not available, you must return home and try again the next day. Often, Swedish citizens hold an American visa in case they need treatment that is better than what they can get in their own country. Such is an example of a single pay health care system that has bought into the humanist agenda. Everything in Sweden is expensive. Additionally, an employer sends the entire wage and tax burden to the government and the government pays the employee. Taxes are about 75% on everyone. What looks so good to the humanist is so restrictive to the humans. With all that said, Sweden is a country poised to be attacked by a blood-thirsty nation and once the supplies are cut off, the wheat bread and the barley bread will be extremely expensive.

But as is the case in all societies, there are always those special people who live by a different standard. The rules do not apply to them. Everyone may be starving but their plates are graced with the finest of wines and the best of the oils. The whole system is broken; it is not fair, but that is the way it is among humans. Such are the consequences of man's attempt to level the playing field for all, rid itself of God, and forbid war. That leads to the consequence of ruthless, blood-thirsty men to see these nations as feeble and an opportunity to attack. That leads to the consequences of war which normally ends in times of famine when the common, everyday needs are in short supply and the expensive luxuries that the common people never could afford are always available. As for the great disparity, *those who have (the few) are rarely worried about those who have not (the multitude)*.

4. Seal Four – Come Ashen Horse (6:7-8)

Rev 6:7 When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creatures saying, "Come." ⁸ I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

With starvation and famine in the homes of these westernized nations, the Lamb breaks the fourth seal giving permission for the “**ashen horse**” to make its ride. “**Ashen**” means *pale green* and the horses' name was “**Death.**” And “**Death**” had the right given to him by the Lamb to kill 25% of the humans on the earth. How many people would be if this seal

was broken today? As of July 1, 2018, the population of the earth is estimated to be **7.6 billion** people; therefore, if this seal was broken today, this movement across humanity of **“death”** would have the **“authority”** to kill **1.9 billion** people through war (a sword), famine (starvation), pestilence (disease), and wild beasts. It seems inconceivable that in this age in which we live that wild beasts would still be used to kill people. We have so many more effective weapons and so do most nations. However, John ties **“pestilence”** with **“wild beasts.”** These wild beasts do not have to be large animals to kill. For instance, rats have killed more people throughout history than any other animal in existence. Rats carry **“pestilence.”** Remember the bubonic plague? Rats commonly carry as many as 35 diseases that are fatal to humans. **“Death!”** Why? It is a natural consequence of war and famine.

But we must not forget the word **“Hades.”** It follows **“Death.”** The mention of **“Hades”** tells us much about the spiritual lives of those who will die. How do we know that? Throughout the Old Testament *Sheol* (Old Testament Hebrew name) or *Hades* (New Testament Greek name for the same place as *Sheol*) contained two compartments. One was called *Abraham’s Bosom*, or *Paradise* or *the place of peaceful rest*. The second was called *the place of torment*. Between the two compartments there was a great gulf which did not allow anyone from one side to cross to the other, although they could see and communicate across the barrier. All the righteous proceeded to *the place of peaceful rest* at death and all the unrighteous arrived at *the place of torment* at death (Luke 16:19-31). Upon His death, Jesus descended into Hades and *the place of peaceful rest* to be with all the righteous of all the previous ages. There Jesus spoke across the great gulf to those who had refused to accept His coming as the Messiah to be a fact. Upon His resurrection, Jesus emptied all the righteous saints from *the place of peaceful rest* and took them back to the streets of Jerusalem and from there on to heaven (Matthew 27:52). That occurred in April of 30 AD. Those Old Testament Saints, which included Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, David, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and the penitent thief on the cross, received their glorified bodies and rose from the grave to join the LORD in heaven. Every believer who died after that resurrection has gone immediately to heaven to be with Jesus. However, every non-believer since that day has continued to go to the same holding compartment in Hades, called *torment*. It is still being filled to this day and its glutinous mouth will become larger and larger with the arrival of all unredeemed souls until their resurrection, called the *resurrection of the dead*, at the beginning of the *Great White Throne Judgment*. The consequence of this movement was the death of 25% of the population on the earth.

5. Seal Five – Souls Under the Altar (6:9-11b)

Rev 6:9 When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained;

As a result of what John had just seen play out, when the fifth seal was broken, he did not look back at the earth, he looked at the altar of the holy throne of God. There he saw souls who had died because they held to their beliefs in the Bible and they would not change their testimonies, and, for that, they were killed by those who did not believe in the God of the Bible. This pageantry leading to the Second Coming did not begin with the REVELAION, it began in Genesis. It did not begin with the start of the Church, it began with the start of human existence. But the LORD did make a separation between the saints who lived before

His resurrection and those who lived after. Since His resurrection, literally hundreds of thousands of people have died for their faith in Jesus. All the Apostles except John died as martyrs; they were surely below the altar. Paul is there, too; he was beheaded for his faith. All of those who have not bowed to the demands of Islam are there. But with the breaking of the **“fifth seal,”** John sees the destiny of the righteous martyrs and it was not the place called **“Hades,”** it is the place called heaven. As a matter of fact, when they arrived in heaven, they were directed to one of the most holy of holy spots in the throne room, the altar. Can you think of a more wonderful place to be in heaven?

a) **Their Cry to the LORD (6:10)**

Rev 6:10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

A long time had passed since the breaking of the first seal but the cry of the dead in Christ residing under the altar was not new. That cry resides on earth, too. Here we wonder about it each time we hear of the death of a saint at the hands of an evil wretch. Why does the LORD allow it to continue? We do not understand, but He does. **“How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”** All the righteous have asked that same question from this side of heaven. The souls under the altar are just repeating the same earthly sentiment, but they are doing it for a heavenly reason. John needs to hear the answer.

b) **Their Gift from the LORD (6:11a)**

Rev 6:11a And there was given to each of them a white robe;

All martyrs who have arrived in heaven throughout the years have been given their **“white robe”** to wear for all eternity, the robe of purest white untainted by sin forever. Then, they joined all the other martyrs at the altar.

c) **Their Answer from the LORD (6:11b)**

Rev 6:11b and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until *the number of* their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.

John heard the answer and recorded it. **“... a little while longer, until the fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.”** The LORD wants all the martyrs since His resurrection to be gathered into one place and then they will see Him rain judgment down on the self-willed unredeemed evil men of earth. How long will it take until all righteous martyrs arrive? At this point in the story, we do not know.

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